a first and a second substrate;

a first alignment treatment applied to a surface of the first substrate, said first alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least a portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a first alignment direction and with a first pretilt angle $\alpha_1$ with respect to a plane parallel to said first substrate;

a second alignment treatment applied to a surface of the second substrate, said second alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least another portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a second alignment direction and with a second pretilt angle $\alpha_2$ with respect to a plane parallel to said second substrate; and

wherein the first substrate is located with respect to the second substrate in such a way that the surfaces of the first and second substrates onto which the first and second alignment treatments were applied, respectively, are spaced apart, generally parallel and facing each other and a projection of the first alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate makes a non-zero angle $\Omega$ with respect to a projection of the second alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate such that, said ferroelectric liquid crystal material being injected between the first and second substrates, the optical device is free of chevron structures without a need to otherwise apply an additional treatment to the optical device.

2. (Amended) An optical device of Claim 1 wherein said ferroelectric liquid crystal material has a phase sequence of Isotropic – Nematic – Smectic A – Smectic C* – Crystalline states.

13. (Amended) An optical system comprising:

an optical device including

a ferroelectric liquid crystal material,

a first and a second substrate,

a first alignment treatment applied to a surface of the first substrate, said first alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least a portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a first alignment direction and with a first pretilt angle $\alpha_1$ with respect to a plane parallel to said first substrate,

a second alignment treatment applied to a surface of the second substrate, said second alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least another portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a second alignment direction and with a second pretilt angle $\alpha_2$ with respect to a plane parallel to said second substrate, and

wherein the first substrate is located with respect to the second substrate in such a way that the surfaces of the first and second substrates onto which the first and second alignment treatments were applied, respectively, are spaced apart, generally parallel and facing each other and a projection of the first alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate makes a non-zero angle $\Omega$ with respect to a projection of the second alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate such that, said ferroelectric liquid crystal material being injected between the first and second substrates, the optical device is free of chevron structures without a need to otherwise apply an additional treatment to the optical device;

a light input directed at said optical device in such a way that the optical device in turn produces a light output of a particular optical state; and

means for electrically addressing said optical device in such a way that the particular optical state of the light output is continuously variable between a minimum optical state and a

maximum optical state wherein an optical retardance of the optical device remains generally constant during said continuous variation of the optical state of the light output.

14. (Amended) In an optical device including a ferroelectric liquid crystal material, a method for preventing formation of chevron structures in the optical device, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first and a second substrate;

applying a first alignment treatment to a surface of the first substrate, said first alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least a portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a first alignment direction and with a first pretilt angle $\alpha_1$ with respect to a plane parallel to said first substrate;

applying a second alignment treatment to a surface of the second substrate, said second alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least another portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a second alignment direction and with a second pretilt angle $\alpha_2$ with respect to a plane parallel to said second substrate;

locating the first substrate with respect to the second substrate in such a way that the surfaces of the first and second substrates onto which the first and second alignment treatments were applied, respectively, are spaced apart, generally parallel and facing each other and a projection of the first alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate makes a non-zero angle $\Omega$ with respect to a projection of the second alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate; and

injecting the ferroelectric liquid crystal material between the first and second substrates such that the optical device is free of chevron structures without a need to otherwise apply an